

Amendments to the Drawings

Please amend the sheet containing Figure 1 to include the degassing unit (14) and ink supply conduit (15) as indicated on the revised copy of Figure 1 in the Appendix to this Amendment.

REMARKS

The Examiner has indicated that claims 6-12 and 14-19 contain allowable subject matter.

The Applicant has revised Figure 1 of the drawings to include a degassing unit (14) and ink supply conduit (15) that are mentioned in paragraph [0032]. The Applicant submits that this amendment adds no new matter.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-5 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) in light of Smith et al. (US 6,655,797). The Applicant submits that Smith et al. fails to disclose all features of claims 1-5 and 13.

Smith et al.

As understood, Smith et al. disclose the deposition of fixer and overcoat in an inkjet printing system. The fixer and overcoat react to produce a protective coating (col. 1, ln. 50-1). The fixer and overcoat must be clear or they would change the appearance of the printing.

Smith et al. give the fluid of Gore US 6,460,138 as an example of a fixer and overcoat (col. 1, ln. 54-5). The Office Action suggests that Gore teaches that the fixer may be a colorant (with reference to Gore at col. 2, ln. 7). The cited passage from Gore indicates that the fixer fluid is "typically substantially devoid of color (i.e., the reactant fluid may contain no colorant (e.g. dye or pigment), or it may contain a colorant that does not absorb visible light but may absorb in either of both the IR or UV spectrums)." [emphasis added]. Gore's fixer is not a spot color because it has no color in the visible range of the spectrum.

Further, the Smith et al. printer deposits fixer and overcoat onto every drop printed (see col. 1, ln. 19-20; col. 2, ln. 35-40).

Independent claims 1 and 13Claim 1

Claim 1 recites a printhead assembly comprising "a spot color printhead for printing at least one spot color". The Applicant submits that Smith et al. fails to disclose this feature. The fixer and overcoat printheads of Smith et al. are not spot color printheads, as claimed. A spot color must have some color in the visible range of the spectrum. The clear fixer and overcoat of Smith et al. are not spot colors.

Further, the Smith et al. printer deposits fixer and overcoat onto every drop printed. Thus, the fixer printhead of Smith et al. is not a spot color printhead because it would not typically be desirable to overprint every dot in an image with a spot color.

Finally, Smith et al. disclose some embodiments wherein the fixer and overcoat printheads are "half-height" whereas the ink printheads are "full height". However, Smith et al. do not disclose that the fixer and overcoat printheads have fewer nozzles than the ink printheads. Therefore, Smith et al. fails to disclose "the second plurality having fewer nozzles than the first plurality" as recited in claim 1.

For the reasons above, claim 1 is submitted not to be anticipated by Smith et al.

Claim 13

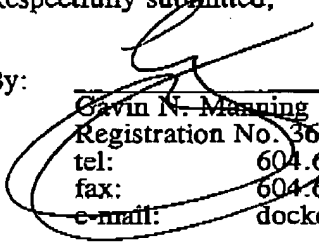
Claim 13 relates to a method which is submitted to distinguish Smith et al. Claim 13 recites "printing each of at least one spot colors". As noted above, Smith et al. fails to disclose printing spot colors. Claim 13 also recites "the second plurality having fewer nozzles than the first plurality". As noted above, Smith et al. fails to disclose this feature.

For the reasons above, claim 13 is submitted not to be anticipated by Smith et al.

All pending claims depend from one of claims 1 and 13 and are submitted to be allowable for at least this reason.

Respectfully submitted,

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ANNOTATED PAGE SHOWING CHANGES

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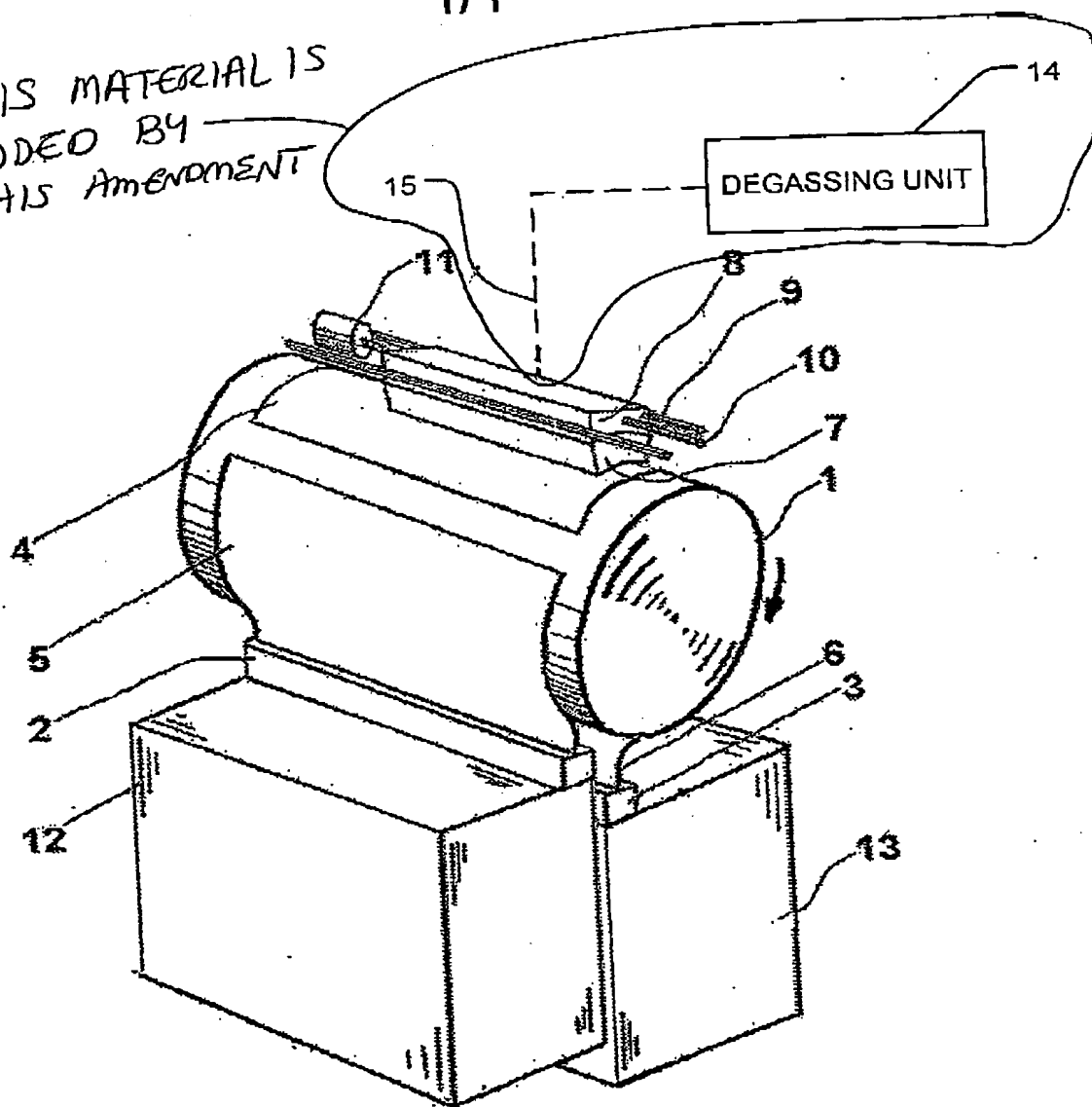


FIG. 1